U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
OSWER/OSRTI/TIFSD
ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE TEAM
Edison, NJ ■ Cincinnati, OH/Erlanger, KY ■ Las Vegas, NV ■ Research Triangle Park, NC

ERT Activities, August 2012

[*Note:* Activities are grouped according to the ERT Priorities]

Non Responsive

Non Responsive

DIM0172632

Non Responsive

Non Responsive

Non Responsive

Non Responsive

Non Responsive

Non Responsive

accessible to the public, livestock, and other animals. (Contact: Terrence G. Johnson, 702-784-8022)

- ***Grey Eagle Mine Site, Happy Camp, CA.*** On August 27-29, Greg Powell was at the Grey Eagle Mine Site in Happy Camp, California, with the EPA Region 9 On-Scene Coordinator. Strategies were developed to evaluate the discharge of acid mine drainage to a tributary of the Kalamath River. Geophysics, dye tracing, and moni-toring wells are proposed to evaluate leachate pathways. (Contact: Gregory W. Powell, 513-569-7533)

Region 10

- ***Upper Columbia River Site, Seattle, WA.*** ERT continues its involvement in and support of EPA Region 10 on the Upper Columbia River Site. David W. Charters serves as an EPA Technical Team Co-Chairman, and Marc Greenberg as Co-Chairman of the Aquatic Risk Group. On August 14-15, David and Marc attended technical meetings in Seattle, Washington, between EPA and the Participating Parties (State of Washington, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe, and the Department of the Interior). The EPA Site Team meeting was convened to discuss comments on the final draft Sediment Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and the EPA plan for commu-nicating with Teck on revisions necessary for approval of the QAPP. The meeting was productive and led to a well-focused EPA comment letter to Teck. On August 17, the Department of the Interior submitted a QAPP for split samples that will be collected as part of the sediment program for QA purposes. EPA rapidly reviewed Teck's response to EPA and is hopeful that its QAPP will be revised such that sampling can occur in 2012. (Contacts: David W. Charters, 732-906-6925; Marc S. Greenberg, 732-452-6413)

- ***Elwha River Project, Port Angeles, WA.*** On August 20-26, Alan Humphrey was in Port Angeles, Washington, assisting EPA Region 10 with the second year of dives near the mouth of the Elwha River to evaluate the impacts of the largest dam removal ever in North American history. The diving objective was to assess the effects of the removal of the Elwha River dams (large sediment load release) on shallow subtidal benthic communities. Data on organism density (macro algae, inver-tebrates, and fish) and the presence/absence (for encrusting species) of macro algae size and percent coverage, substrate composition, and sea-floor relief were collected along transects. Also, instruments to monitor sedimentation and turbidity were deployed and maintained. A substantial amount of scientific data (including QA/QC benthic surveys at specific sites) dives observations, plus photos and video, were gathered over the five days of diving under challenging conditions, and will be compared to the baseline studies. This project, conducted with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Elwha tribe, will continue to assess the impact of the silt plume into ocean waters at the mouth of the river. Diving was con-ducted at depths of 30-70 feet, dives averaged about 45 minutes, water tem-peratures were 45-47 degrees Fahrenheit, and visibility ranged from 15 meters down to only 2 meters when diving in the silt plume. Dives were scheduled for slack tide as much as possible, but several dives were conducted in current to complete the assigned tasks. Divers adhered to the EPA Diving Safety Policy. Pictures of the dive operations are available at **http:/www.facebook.com/EPADivers**. (Contact: Alan M. Humphrey, 732-321-6748)

Expanding Technical Expertise and Increase Experience Base on Innovative Technologies and Procedures

- ***Bio Waste Liquid Research and Response Plan Workgroup Teleconference.*** On August 9, the Bio Waste Liquid Research and Response Plan Workgroup held a teleconference to discuss Baccillus Anthracis PPE Wash Water Quick Refer-ence Guide information and how it could be applied to the larger venue of a liquid waste. Among the items included in the discussions were: verification of disinfection (i.e., sam-pling protocol and number of samples); 10 percent bleach solution (e.g., maybe only 5 percent is necessary); use of white vinegar to adjust pH (i.e., is it needed?); reaction time, timetable or graph for several tem-peratures, pHs and solid (turbidity) loading; and dechlorination (e.g., use sodium thio-sulfate?); for waste water decontamination resulting from a bio-response, how turbidity will affect the efficacy of disinfectant, and how to scale up from the PPE QRG "recipes," and fate and transport issues of Bacillus Anthracis in waste water. (Contact: Colleen F. Petullo, 702-784-8004)

Work on Precedent Setting National Issues

- ***Environmental Measurement Symposium, Washington, DC.*** Stephen Blaze and David Mickunas participated in the 2012 National Environmental Measure-ment Symposium held in Washington, DC, on August 5-10. The Symposium is a com-bination of The NELAC Institute (TNI) semi-annual Forum on Laboratory Accredi-tation and the National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC), and a meeting of the EPA Environmental Labor-atory Advisory Board (ELAB). The high-lights of the weeklong Symposium included: technical presentations and posters on a variety of cutting-edge

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Highlighted Support Activities

Ongoing/Completed

Project	Tools	Scope
Non Responsive		
Dimock (R3)	Scribe	Provide assistance on migrating historic data to Scribe

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